cines as testing facilities are not available in the country; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The sera and vaccine are special biological products and special provisions regarding storage, packing, labelling and quality under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules are observed while clearing the conignments.

(b) and (c) The vaccine released without test during the last 3 years are:—

(i) Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.

(ii) Hepatitis Vaccine.

(iii) Meningococcal vaccine.

The Hepatitis vaccine and Menin gococcal vaccine were released as special case because of the epidemics prevailing at the time of import.

(d) The details of the sample of Sera and Vaccine tested during the last 3 years are as follows:

	Tested	Standard	Sub-Standard
1983-84	15	1	1*
1984-85	23	23	Nil
1985-86	19	19	Nil

*Oral Polio vaccine imported at Bombay which was substandard.

(e) and (f) Although facilities for testing of M.M.R. and Hepatitis vaccines are not available in the country, these are released only after checking the batch release certificate issued by the Health Authorities of the importing country.

Banking the drugs like indomethacin

1494. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drugs like Indomethacin has been proved dangerous;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these drugs have been banned in number of countries;

(c) if so, name of the countries and the reasons in each case;

(d) whether it is a fact that these drugs are being marketed in our country despite the fact that number of substitute drugs are available; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for not banning the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) It is not a fact that Indomethacin as such has proved dangerous.

(b) and (c) So far as Government are aware only Controlled Release formulations of Indomethacin have been withdrawn by the manufacturers of the drugs in certain countries like West Germany, Argentina, Switzerland, Netherlands and Newzealand following reports of Gastro-intenstinal bleeding and perforation. No other products of Indomethacin is affected by this withdrawal.

(d) and (e) Indomethacin and its substitute are being marketed in the country. However, the Controlled Release formulation of Indomethacin banned in some countries has not been approved for marketing in India and as such the question of banning it does not arise.